

HOW TO BECOME A LAWYER IN ONTARIO.—LAW REFORM COMMISSION.

"during the year last but one before the time of his final examination" (November 1872), for that year will expire in November, 1871. Therefore, since this last condition is statutory and imperative, if the first of the examinations under Mr. Blake's Act be delayed until February, 1870, or the second be not passed in November, 1871, the final examination and admission of the student will be delayed until February, 1873,—three months beyond the term of service required by the statute.

There is no doubt, however, that as a student at law, a candidate may pass the intermediate examinations at intervals not necessarily the same as those mentioned in the Act, (See Rules E. T. 1868, Law List p. 99), but this will be of no avail *quoad* his admission as an attorney, for although the Benchers may allow the examinations of an articled clerk, passed under the statute, to enure to his benefit as a student at law, there is no provision, nor, from the nature of the case, have they any authority to provide that the converse of this shall also be true. The attorney is almost wholly a creature of the Legislature, which has prescribed the time of his examinations, and fixed the intervals between them; and no resolution of the Law Society can possibly overrule the express enactment of the statute.

It is probable, also, that no question would arise as to whether a student had complied with the law in this respect, until his final examination, when any failure to satisfy the provisions of the statute would of course become apparent on the certificate of the Secretary under the 7th resolution respecting articled clerks.

It is only necessary to remark, in addition to what has already been said, that these examinations take place at 10 a. m. on the first Wednesday of every term, and that under Rule 1, every articled clerk, before presenting himself for examination, must file with the Secretary of the Law Society a certificate signed by himself, shewing the date of the execution and filing of his articles, the name of his principal, the number of assignments, the year of his service, and whether he is a graduate of any University. This certificate should, strictly speaking, be filed on or before the first day of the term; but, in practice, is usually received by the Secretary on the morning of the examination. A fee of one dollar is required on filing it.

The subject of examination for call to the bar and admission to practise will be discussed in a future article, but here, for the present at least, we may resign the post of Mentor to our imaginary Telemachus, feeling sure that by the time he is prepared to "go up for his final" he will have learned the lesson of self-help well enough to depend no longer upon editorial opinions, and will, we trust, have ceased to take up the time and trespass upon the patience of certain Benchers whose kindness to students has become proverbial, by rushing into a correspondence which can only end in referring him to the Acts respecting Attorneys.

LAW REFORM COMMISSION.

The following gentlemen have been appointed Commissioners to inquire into and report upon the present jurisdiction of the several Law and Equity Courts of Ontario, and upon the modes of procedure now adopted in each, and upon such other matters and things therewith connected as are set out in the commission:—Hon. Mr. Justice Wilson, Hon. Mr. Justice Gwynne, Hon. Vice-Chancellor Strong, His Honor Judge Gowan, and Mr. Christopher Patterson, Barrister. Amongst other matters, they are to consider the advisability of a fusion of Law and Equity, and to suggest a scheme for carrying it into effect.

We have heard it remarked that there is an undue preponderance of Common Law men on the Board; but this objection can scarcely be said to be well-founded, when we remember that Mr. Gwynne, though now on the Common Law Bench, for many years devoted himself principally to Chancery business, and was for some time a student in the office of Mr. Rolt in England; and again Mr. Gowan, so far as he represents a class, must be looked upon as a representative of the Division Court system, in which courts, justice is to be administered according to "equity and good conscience." Even if there is anything in the objection it must be remembered that the Commission will embrace other subjects than the fusion of Law and Equity, some of which would seem to require greater knowledge of procedure at law than in Chancery.

As to the qualifications of the several members of the Commission, especially for that branch of it to which we have particu-